

Dear Parents,

Welcome back after our Christmas break and Happy New Year! As always, I'm looking forward to hearing and reading about events over the holidays. This term our main topic will be Kings and Queens, which will look back at the monarchs who have reigned over our country. If you have any experiences or resources linked to this please do let me know.

Maths

As previously we shall be splitting the class into Y3 and 4 with myself and Y5 and 6 with Mrs Twedde. There will be occasions when we shall do whole class maths and learn about shape and measure. We will be continuing to ensure that all the children know their timetables, number bonds and have secure place value. These are the building blocks to maths.

Literacy

Literacy will continue to be taught around three main areas: fiction, non-fiction and poetry, these will be where possible, linked to our topic work. Some of the areas to be studied this term include:

- Fiction: myths and legends
- Non-fiction: instructional writing, autobiographies and creating profiles
- Poems: classic poetry and poems in other forms

Spelling, punctuation and grammar sessions will be taught 3-4 times a week and will continue to develop existing knowledge. A weekly spelling test will continue to be given out on a Friday and tested the following Friday. Guided reading will take place twice per week, with each group having a teacher led session.

Every junior has their own reading book and reading record to keep track of when and how much they have read, please do add a comment when you hear your child read. It doesn't have to be a school reading book, other suitable books can be read, both fiction and non-fiction and recorded in your record book. Reading regularly is very important to developing literacy skills, as such it is advised that children read on a daily basis. Please encourage your child to: read regularly, keep their reading record up to date and independently change their book frequently.

Cooking

Cooking is generally on a Tuesday with Mrs Turner. Please see the newsletter to see when your child is cooking and what to bring.

Working with other schools

Over this term we will be having some joint sessions with the children attending Rosedale school. They will be attending swimming with us at Pickering pool on Fridays. There will also be some joint sessions taking place at Gillamoor on Mondays spread across the term. These afternoon will focus on French and ICT skills.

There will also be a joint day with Hovingham and St. Hilda's before the Y4 - 6 residential in March.

P.E

Mr Mullholland will once again be teaching a weekly session on a Wednesday afternoon. As many of our sessions as possible, weather permitting, will take place on the sports field so please ensure that your child has suitable trainers, dark coloured shorts or jogging bottoms and a plain coloured t-shirt. It is very important that children have the correct kit in school for every lesson. Records will be kept of children having to borrow items and a follow up letter shall be sent home.

Swimming will continue to be on Friday mornings, again please send your child with appropriate kit (girls - full swimming costume and boys- swimming trunks). If any child wears ear rings, then please make sure they are either removed or covered for all P.E and swimming sessions. Long hair must be tied back for all PE sessions.

Topic

Kings and Queens. How many kings and queens have ruled over England? Where were they from? How did they live? Where did they live? We'll be looking into these questions and create a fantastic monarch timeline with profiles about many of these royals. We shall be studying the homes and castles of past and present royals and looking at the machines of war that helped to win many battles. We shall also hopefully be visiting one of our local castles.

Within religious education we will be considering what faith is and how does it make a difference to our own lives and the lives of others. After half term we will be reminded about Lent and Easter.

Homework

As well as the homework programme devised by Mrs Tweddle for the year 5 and 6 children, a piece of whole class homework will be expected to be completed once per week and brought into school by Thursday morning. Each child has been given a homework folder and a piece of paper with 10 homework tasks linked into our topic. One of these should be completed each week, which one is up to the child depending on the time they have available that week, as some will take longer than others. Each homework completed will be rewarded with a Lego brick, bonus bricks can be awarded for presentation and effort.

Each week there will also be spellings and a times table to practice. These shall form part of a weekly quiz to take place on Friday mornings.

I hope your children are looking forward to 2016 as much as I am. Please do come and see me if you would like to contribute to any subject area or if you have anything you would like to discuss.

Yours sincerely,
Andy Dean